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New Buffalo Times

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issue 11, volume 84 www.newbuffalotimes.com Thursday, March 13, 2025

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El Jaguar
El Jaguar es un mamífero que vive en la selva tropical de América del Norte, Central, y Sur. Es grande de color café, negro, blanco, y amarillo. Tiene cola, piel peludo, garras, y 4 patas. Come otros animales. Es predador de ciervos, capybaras, y tapir. Corre. No vuela.

Elementary students soak up new language, culture in Spanish class **PAGE 18**

NIFTY FIFTY…

THE ‘BITE INTO A LEGEND’ BURGER TURNS 50

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PHOTO OF MINDY GREENFIELD AND TIM AMES BEING FIRST IN LINE FOR OPENING DAY BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

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Linda Stone reads aloud to third, fourth and fifth graders

Author visit kicks off 'March is National Reading Month'

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

To kick off March is National Reading Month, New Buffalo Elementary School hosted local author Linda Stone to read from her book, "Bubbles' Troubles," Friday, March 7.

Stone, who's owned and operated a floral shop in New Buffalo for the past 24 years and owned a bakery for 20 years in Union Pier, wrote the book after rescuing Bubbles, a female Shih-Tzu, from the Northwest Indiana Humane Society in 2019.

Another book, "Teddy Spaghetti," is scheduled for publication and centers around Bubbles' brother Teddy, a Lhasa Apso, who he chose from Camp Canine.

The book was illustrated by Matthew Smith, the associate graphic designer at New York Festivals.

Those who donate $1 or more can be part of Bubbles's Fan Club, 100% of their donation will go directly to the Northwest Indiana Humane Society. For more information on Stone, visit www.bubblesandteddy.com.

It's easy for your judgment to go astray when you fail to measure your first impressions.
— Dino N. Fatouros

Narcotics trafficking complaint leads to New Buffalo arrest of Benton Harbor men

Southwest Enforcement Team (SWET) west detectives, along with Berrien County Sheriff's Office, MSP Niles Post K-9 unit, New Buffalo City Police, and Pokagon Tribal police, responded to a narcotics trafficking complaint in New Buffalo Thursday, Feb. 27.

According to police, they located a vehicle that was believed to be involved in the month-long investigation and two occupants in the vehicle were "subsequently arrested and charged with drug related crimes," according to the release.

Approximately 21 grams of heroin and two grams of crack cocaine were located and seized while the suspects and vehicles were being searched.

Additional drug distribution paraphernalia was also located and seized, per the release.

A 44-year-old Benton Harbor man was arrested on charges of possession with the intent to deliver heroin and maintaining a drug vehicle, both of which are 2nd offenses. A 30-year-old Benton Harbor man was arrested and charged with possession with the intent to deliver heroin, possession with the intent to deliver crack cocaine, and maintaining a drug vehicle, which are also 2nd offenses.

"Any suspicious or narcotic related information can be reported at 269-982-8664. Each year in Southwest Michigan, we lose nearly twice as many lives to fatal drug overdoses as we do to fatal car crashes," the release said.

Those who would like to get information about getting substance use treatment or know someone who would, regardless of insurance, should call Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health at 800-781-0353.

SWET is funded in part by the Michigan HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) as well as the U.S. Department of Justice, Byrne JAG grant. This project was supported by Federal Grant Award Number JAG-70888-S.W.E.T.-2024. —

STAFF REPORTS

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO
VANCE PRICE, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJEWSKI, KAREN GEAR, RICH KNOLL, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
HOWARD MALES, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, BARBARA ANDERSON
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
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CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, ARTHUR ANDERSON
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM
VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER, JACK GRACE, ED SEBASTIAN, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Michigan sees increase in commercial trout sales

BY STAN MADDUX

The value of all commercial trout sold and distributed in Michigan during 2024 was $6.74 million, a three percent increase over the previous year.

That's according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service Great Lakes Region based in East Lansing, Michigan.

Michigan, with many cold-water lakes and streams ideal for the species to survive, is listed by USDA as among the top 16 trout producing states, but more than 70 percent of the trout produced in the nation comes out of Idaho.

Some of the commercial trout in Michigan is produced for food while the rest largely go to stock private lakes, ponds and streams.

John Nelski, owner of Crystal Springs Farms near Muskegon, said he produces close to 100,000 trout annually for stocking privately owned lakes, ponds and streams mainly at hunting and fishing clubs or lake associations.

Another longtime customer, though, is an Indian tribe that buys his fish to stock a stream fed lake at its reservation for children to fish.

The tribe also holds a yearly event that includes special prizes for catching a fish wearing a tag placed on it by Nelski before released into the water.

"If the kids catch a tagged fish, they get a gift," he said.

Nelski raises trout he receives from a hatchery, typically, until they weigh just over a pound.

He charges about $1.50 for each fish measuring 6 to 8 inches long and more for the ones he keeps longer so they grow to the size requested in special orders for fishing shows and places like aquariums.

Nelski said he delivers the fish by truck including one carrying eight 250 gallon oxygenated tanks.

"I can carry three thousand pounds of trout in that truck," he said.

He receives his fish from one of the largest privately owned producers in the state, Harrietta Hills Trout Farm and Water Management Company nestled in the Manistee National Forest in the Upper Lower Peninsula.

Specializing in rainbow trout, family owned Harrietta Hills started in the 1950's is a provider for both stocking and consumption.

They're a supplier for Superior Foods of Grand Rapids.

Nelski, 76, who started the operation in 1993, said he used to run a hatchery and raise trout for restaurants but changes in the market forced him to adjust for survival.

He said more than 90 percent of his supply for stocking is game fish like bluegill, bass and crappie.

Stoney Creek Fisheries and Equipment produces anywhere from 5,000 to 10,000 trout each year for stocking at mostly privately owned ponds, said Mason Larva, Fisheries Manager at the business near Grant.

Michigan, with many cold-water lakes and streams ideal for the species to survive, is listed by USDA as among the top 16 trout producing states, but more than 70 percent of the trout produced in the nation comes out of Idaho.

The water in the ponds of his customers is kept naturally cool because they are fed by ground water naturally kept at close to a 50 degree temperature.

Larva said his trout also received from a hatchery are usually raised and sold when they are four to six inches long.

About half of his live trout are delivered by truck while the rest is picked up.

Larva also said the price for a larger fish is higher.

"You have to put more money in the feed that gets them to that size," he said.

He said the once family owned business started in 1970 as a trout farm but in response to higher market demand added game fish for stocking, which is now the primary generator of sales at the company.

Fishing farming can also be susceptible to changes in government restrictions.

Nelski said he used to provide up to two thousand walleye annually for stocking in the fall but stopped last year when ordered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to switch to northern pike.

He said the market for northern pike is in Minnesota and Wisconsin where they're used in crossbreeding for tiger muskies.

Nelski said he's also had to adjust to changes over the years in what the state considers private and public waters.

"It's just a never ending battle," he said.

Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none.
— William Shakespeare (All's Well That Ends Well)

Mother charged in boyfriend's alleged beating death of son

BY STAN MADDUX

A Michigan City woman is now facing potential time in prison in connection with the beating death of her five year old son allegedly at the hands of her live-in boyfriend.

Haile Lewis, 23, was charged Friday afternoon in La Porte Superior Court 1 with Level 1 felony neglect of a dependent.

The charge alleges Lewis knew her son was being abused but failed to seek help or remove him from the situation that resulted in his death.

Brice Bainum, 32, was previously charged with murder.

According to court documents, Lewis after witnessing some of the abuse found the boy unresponsive on the floor of his bedroom on the morning of March 2 at Normandy Village Apartments.

Police said Lewis told investigators while they were eating dinner, Bainum feeling the boy was being disrespectful used a blanket to bound the boy to his kitchen chair while demanding he apologize, which he did.

Lewis said Bainum also tipped the chair forward so the boy's chest was on the table and kept pouring cold water from a bottle over the boy's head and back for about one hour, according to court documents.

Court documents show Lewis told police she did not come to the aid of her son, not even when Bainum left the room to fill up the bottle again with water, because he made her sit down.

She said Bainum later made her son take a cold shower, which he had done to her son previously during their relationship, according to police.

According to court documents, Lewis told police she later found the boy looking scared and crying in the bathroom with Bainum yelling at her son, who appeared to have been struck "really hard."

She said Bainum explained the child bit him on the arm hard enough to leave a bite mark and responded defiantly when she told him to stop hitting her son, according to court documents.

After the shower, Lewis told police she fell asleep briefly in the living room and woke up to the boy kneeling on the floor by the front door with Baimun again pouring cold water on her son, who was shivering.

At one point, she said Bainum made her fill up the bottle and pour water on her son and he later opened the door to allow cold air from outside on the shivering boy, according to police.

According to court documents, Lewis said the boy after ordered back to his bedroom was walking there when struck on the back of the head by Bainum.

Police said Lewis also told investigators she was later in the bathroom when she heard a "thump" but she was not sure if the noise came from her son's bedroom or if Bainum was in the room with the child, according to police.

Court documents also revealed a neighbor living above the apartment told police she heard a faucet running inside their home along the voice of a "little boy" saying "no, please stop. I will be a good boy."

The woman said she also heard what sounded like someone "thrashing in the water" then silence until an ambulance arrived roughly one hour later, according to police.

Police said Lewis told investigators she found the boy unresponsive after going into his bedroom to check on him and went to call 911, but Bainum grabbed the phone out of her hand.

More than one hour passed before he allowed her to call for help, according to court documents.

Police said the boy was airlifted from Franciscan Health to Comer Children's Hospital in Chicago where he was pronounced dead that evening.

According to the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office, the boy's cause of death was listed as multiple injuries such as bleeding on the brain due to assault, a homicide.

The autopsy also found contusions on the child's scalp from multiple impacts on the head along with bruises and abrasions on his upper and lower extremities, court documents showed.

Lewis told police Brainum had been abusing her son for about six months and her for roughly two months.

She said one of his other forms of punishment to the boy was giving him hot sauce with cayenne pepper on the spoon, court documents showed.

She also described Brainum as jealous whenever she showed too much affection toward her son, police said.

According to police, Lewis admitted there were times she could have sought help for her son but didn't because she was scared.

Bainum was being held in the La Porte County Jail on $1 million bond.

He could face a 45 to 65 year sentence.

Lewis is looking at the possibility of a 20 to 40 year sentence.

Arrests at massage parlors offering sex

BY STAN MADDUX

Five people were arrested Monday, March 10, at three Michigan City massage parlors allegedly offering sexual favors for extra money.

Lihong Zhu, 45, is charged with Level 6 felony maintaining a common nuisance.

Juan Xiao, 39, is charged with Class A misdemeanor prostitution.

Both women from Chicago were taken into custody at 2707 Franklin St., where more than $1,800 in cash was seized, according to written findings in the case submitted in La Porte Superior Court 4.

Zhangping Chen, 53, along with Xiaozhi Zeng, 51, both of Chicago are each charged in the same court with Class A misdemeanor prostitution.

More than $2,900 in cash was seized where they were arrested at 1416 Franklin St., according to court documents.

Yiqun Chen, 52, also of Chicago is charged in the same court with Class A misdemeanor prostitution for her alleged conduct at Ruby Massage at 1706 E. U.S. 20, where just over $1,700 in cash was confiscated, court records show.

According to court documents filed in each of the cases, the investigation began late last year in response to complaints of standard massages offered for a fee as well as sexual favors, including intercourse, for an additional price.

Rates for sex acts ranged from whatever tips customers wanted to leave to a specific fee of as much as $200, police said.

The investigation included surveillance operations in January and February by the La Porte County Drug Task Force at each location along with undercover officers recently posing as customers.

The undercover officers started receiving standard massages then left after receiving offers for sexual favors at an additional cost.

At one of the locations, an officer after exchanging money for intercourse was told "here's the girl for the $100," according to court documents.

The officer then walked out.

According to court documents, another officer was informed by one of the suspects giving him a massage that "we have a full list of services."

When he asked if they offered sex, the woman replied "sex was $200," court documents revealed.

After obtaining search warrants, police said cash was found on countertops, inside desk drawers and other places like inside the pages of notebooks.

Bank statements along with receipts for transactions were also confiscated

To Your Health

COLUMN BY KAREN EDWARDS ND

EARTHING; A FREE WAY TO FEEL BETTER

Pain? Insomnia? Inflammation? Mood disorders? Stressed out? Try Earth Therapy. This is called Grounding or Earthing and could be your missing link to better health and wellbeing.

Earthing is to go barefoot outdoors whenever you can! Why do you think you feel so wonderful after a day at the beach? You are barefoot, you are getting the sunshine, the sand between your toes... All the elements of the earth that we desperately need are lacking due to the synthetic shoes that we wear. Earthing is like getting plugged into the earth and recharging our batteries. It absorbs the earths electrons.

Studies show that earthing re-synchronizes cortisol hormones with our circadian rhythm. This improves sleep, reduces pain and stress.

Wearing synthetic shoes outside does not allow the soul to connect directly to the ground. Our bare feet can absorb the Earth's electrons for many health benefits. Our feet contain reflexes on the sole that directly reflect to organs and parts of our body through meridians. Wearing shoes all of the time outside does not allow the sole to connect directly to the ground. Can we do this in the winter? You bet! You won't be long due to the cold, but you can shovel a spot that has grass and scuff your feet back and forth there. Recharged.

This is something that was always natural in days past. Barefoot was a natural state outdoors. We ground in the summer when we are barefoot at the beach, or walking in our yard. You know you feel better and sleep better when you have gone barefoot.

Connecting to nature barefoot, is one of the best anti-anxiety, anti-depressants that you can get. And it is free! Take a walk barefoot, scuff your feet on your lawn (providing you don't have chemicals sprayed on it.)

Next time you are feeling stressed, overwhelmed, anxious, or depressed, take off your shoes and walk outside on the bare earth. Hug a tree! Let all of Natures pure energy envelope you. Stop and look all around at all that Nature has to offer. Unplug. Engage all of your senses and you will be amazed at how you can make a difference to your nervous system and all your cells.

You can also purchase earthing shoes or mats, that will allow pressure on specific points of the feet, giving you that reflexology therapy. Earthing shoes offer the primal experience of living grounded to the earth. Insulated modern rubber sole shoes interrupt our body's ability to connect with the earths energy in the way our ancient ancestors lived. Primitive cultures lived their lives in constant connection with earth by going barefoot or wearing leather soled shoes.

You can also purchase grounding sheets and even mattresses. These help those who can no longer get outside to go barefoot, or the long winters that we are not grounding to Mother Earth.

Watch this documentary that could be life changing for you at www.youtube.com/watch?v=44ddtR0XDVU

Disclaimer: Nothing in these articles is meant to replace medical advice. If you are on medications, do not stop taking them. This is for educational purposes.

Karen Edwards is a board-Certified Dr. of Naturopathy, Master Herbalist, Vegan and Raw food Chef. She is owner of Holistic Alternatives in New Buffalo and La Porte for over 25 years.

La Porte chosen for brew pub's next location

BY STAN MADDUX

A brew pub is coming to downtown La Porte.

Blockhead Beerworks plans to occupy the main level of the building owned by the Carpenter's Local Union No. 1485 at 1100 Lincolnway across from the old La Porte Hospital site.

Blockhead Beerworks, known for its innovative drinks and Asian-fusion cuisine, has an existing operation in Valparaiso

"We're really excited to be expanding to La Porte and offering something fun and unique for the community," said Cory Muro, Co-founder of the business.

Blockhead Beerworks is owned and managed by the same partners that own and operate Tomato Bar Pizza Bakery, which has locations throughout Northwest Indiana.

"As a La Porte County resident, it makes it more exciting for me to bring Blockhead so close to home," Muro said.

La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership Executive Director Bert Cook said the facility will also feature a brewery and distillery along with off street parking with room for about 70 vehicles.

"I think it will be a really popular restaurant in La Porte," he said.

A $200,000 grant from the La Porte Urban Enterprise Association will help with the building modifications required for the business to operate.

Mayor Tom Dermody said the UEA grant continues the momentum of growth in the downtown.

"When we look for development opportunities, we start with finding good partners and we have two of the best here with the Blockhead team and the Carpenter's Union. This project is an exciting one in the heart of our downtown and our team is confident it's going to be a major success," he said.

Chase ends in fatal crash

BY STAN MADDUX

A Wednesday afternoon motor vehicle pursuit in La Porte County ended with the fleeing driver being killed in a collision with a tree.

Robert Bartels, 48, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Just before 4 p.m., La Porte County Police said a traffic stop was attempted on Bartels, who fled from officers in the area of 250 North and 500 West.

The chase veered onto 250 North where Bartels behind the wheel of a pick-up truck crashed into a tree just over a mile west from where the pursuit began.

Bartels of rural La Porte was pronounced dead after extricated from his vehicle.

At the time, police said he was wanted on a warrant for leaving the scene of a motor vehicle accident in the City of La Porte.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE New Buffalo Times — SINCE 1942

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

The NFL is at it again.

This coming week, teams will be allowed to sign free agents. Most years, when free agency begins, there is a signing frenzy.

The league allows teams and players to talk and even come to terms on a contract, unofficially of course. Sometimes things happen, and because the contracts are unofficial, a team or player can back out.

Next month when the draft takes place, teams can fill the holes that remain on their rosters.

I may be wrong about this, but I don't remember teams trading really good players for late round draft picks before free agency even began.

Unlike baseball, football has an actual, real, salary cap. It's difficult to understand why all sports don't model their attempts to keep the playing field even after the NFL. When baseball's free agency begins, fans have to wait a long time, sometimes the entire off season, before the agents for some of the best players are done milking every last dollar out of the owners. Like the game itself, my favorite by the way, the process is slow and mostly uneventful. Football is quick and exciting and dominates the sports pages for much of their offseason.

Locally, the Bears have been doing everything their fan base wants them to since the season ended.

First, they hired an offensive genius as their head coach. Ben Johnson has been everything the Bears have been lacking since forever. He got hired and started working immediately on bonding with his quarterback and hiring his assistant coaches. Johnson then began letting GM Ryan Poles know the type of players he needed to make the team successful.

Even before free agency began, the Bears had signed two excellent offensive guards, something they hadn't been able to accomplish in the previous three years. There are a couple of offensive centers who are tied to the Bears too, and all of a sudden the teams biggest weakness, by far, now looks like it will be a strength. The team still has money under the salary cap to spend, and the draft can now be approached differently. Instead of limiting themselves to the best offensive lineman, they can now draft the best player, regardless of position. Initially,

I liked coach Eberflus as a human, but he left a lot to be desired as a coach. The upgrade in the coaching staff will be huge. I never understood why the Bears didn't address the offensive line. Already, the upgrade is great.

These two upgrades will make the most important player in the room, quarterback Caleb Williams, a much better player, and because of this I believe that the playoffs are right around the corner and a run at the Super Bowl is on the near horizon. While I'm looking forward to the baseball season, this year the football season will be tough to beat.

Winston Churchill said, "Success is not final; failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

If you do not expect the unexpected you will not find it, for it is not to be reached by search or trail. — *Heraclitus*

Interim police chief takes over the department permanently

BY STAN MADDUX

The interim police chief in La Porte was appointed to the job on a permanent basis just eight days after the former chief resigned.

Matthew Drangmeister, a 17-year member of the department, was sworn-in Wednesday, March 12, at City Hall by Mayor Tom Dermody, who cited his dedication and experience in many levels at the department as among the reasons for the quick decision.

"I have no doubt in my mind that Matt will greet each new challenge with the tenacity and the commitment that the chief's position requires," Dermody said.

Detective Jim Ferguson, a 20 year member of the department, was chosen to be the assistant chief.

Drangmeister, 41, was assistant chief under Dick Buell, who came out of retirement just over a year ago to lead the young department.

After the ceremony, Drangmeister said among his top priorities is for him and Ferguson, 51, to work the streets several times a month to eliminate a natural bridge that can exist between patrol officers and the administration.

He also felt working patrols will lead to better decision making by him and his second in command.

"It's important so you don't lose touch with what's important, our front line," he said.

Drangmeister began his law enforcement career as a jail officer at the La Porte County Sheriff's Office when Buell was the jail commander.

The appointment of Buell was not popular, initally, with the La Porte Fraternal Order of Police, because the new chief, historically, was chosen from within the department.

Drangmeister said he was excited, though, when Buell was appointed because of the time he worked for him as a jail officer.

"I knew when I found out that he was going to be the chief of police that I would stand behind him and support him. I learned a lot from him," he said.

SCHOLASTICS

School board hears of potential summer college baseball league

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

A potential summer college baseball league, which would align with efforts to improve the baseball and softball fields, was presented to the New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education's Monday, March 10, meeting.

Superintendent Adam Bowen said that, over the past two years, options have been explored regarding improving the baseball field, which would align with enhancements that are made to the city-owned softball field.

Last February, the New Buffalo City Council approved leasing the softball field to the New Buffalo Area Recreation Authority, of which the school board is a part, and the school board had approved leasing the baseball field to the authority.

Bowen said that ideas have evolved from months of discussions with architects and field experts regarding potential improvements, which would be done in phases.

He said there have been individuals committed to making a "significant financial contribution" through the New Buffalo Community Education Foundation.

"Currently, we're evaluating the feasibility of installing a turf field while maintaining natural grass outfield, so this hybrid approach would allow for greater utilization benefitting not only JV and varsity baseball teams but accommodating our younger age groups and that includes Pony League and other community programs," Bowen said.

He added that looking at some turf elements "removes the possibility" of other tasks, such as reconstructing batting boxes and pitching mounds, routine mowing, irrigation and dragging, raking and lining the field.

An advanced draining system would allow for games to be played even in spring's challenging weather conditions.

Other improvements being explored include relocating the home plate, so the baseball and softball fields are sharing a common backstop and there can be multiple-use facilities, where spectators of both sports can have common access to shared amenities.

"While the district remains committed to making improvements to primarily benefit of our high school athletes, support of the Foundation of a summer league presents other opportunities for additional enhancement that otherwise might not be feasible," Bowen said.

Brian Williams, a New Buffalo resident who's a scouting regional supervisor for the Texas Rangers Baseball Club, said that a summer league could utilize student interns to do the game's broadcasting aspect as well as to handle media relations and run business operations, giving them "real life experience."

Live streaming the games would also open opportunities for broadcasting the games on a radio station, which is done at Western Michigan University.

Fundraising for student efforts could take place during games through raffles and concession stand sales.

"It's for the community as a whole but I would look forward to partnering with the school district as a whole," he said.

Tom Rowland, who has children in the school district, said he participated in a similar league in college, which allowed him to interact with the local community and to sign autographs.

He added that a league would "require some sort of level of coordination and support from the school and city."

Williams added that there have been several summer leagues that "have footprints in the area" that have expressed interest in the area's market.

Since the league would take place in June and July, it wouldn't interfere with athletics or other activities within the school district.

Games would take place four to five days a week and college athletes would stay with host families.

Board members heard an update on transportation from Tom Whitsel, transportation director.

So far this school year, Whitsel said that over 100,000 miles have been traveled.

Drivers are on tap to undergo continuing education this summer on changing federal and state laws.

The district consists of eight main drivers.

The district continues to use BusRight, which allows drivers to streamline bus communication and manage routes.

Currently, there are 10 van routes; however, Whitsel said this will increase to 13 by the end of this month. Vans have done 53,000 miles this school year, with Whitsel saying that the district did get two new vans last year.

Buses currently have seven main routes a day.

Whitsel said that over 2,000 miles have been traveled for high school field trips alone, but the elementary school will surpass this with end-of-the-year trips.

Whitsel said they're on the hunt for chauffeur drivers and that he's in the process of talking with lunch workers and workers in other areas to "try and bring people in so they can flesh out their hours."

Lots of routes will be going this summer with summer school and day camp running together.

Kate Nicolai, director of New Buffalo Daycare, recently attended the National Association for the Education of Young Children Policy Forum in Washington, D.C., which was made possible through a scholarship from the Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children.

She said she spent three days "surrounded by early childhood educators, experts and policy makers and we dove deep into issues that impact working families, young children and the professionals who serve them."

Board members approved the New Buffalo Community Education Foundation's use of the NBAS-approved logo for marketing purposes.

Board members approved the following grant applications for the Planned Unit Development, which would be across from the elementary school: Sen. Peters Congressional Directed Spending Grant, Sen. Walberg Community Project Submission Grant, Sen. Slotkins State Grant and MSHDA grants (as applicable).

Bowen said that there's a particular one they're viewing with MSHDA regarding workforce housing development.

Board members learned of the resignation of Jeanne Przystup due to retirement, effective June 9, 2025.

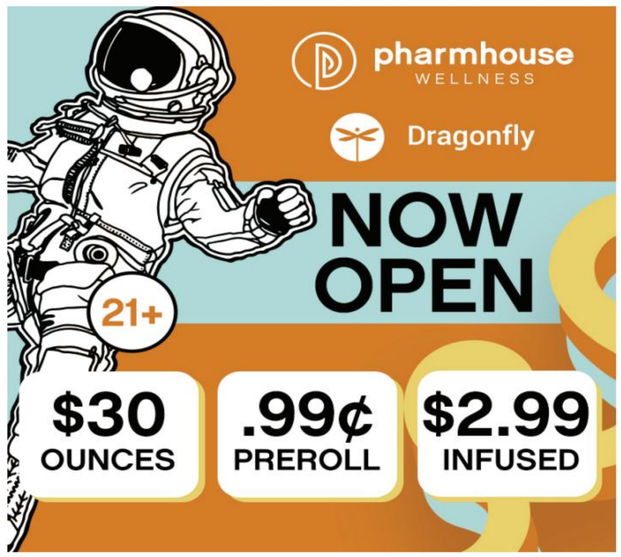
'CORNED BEEF-OFF' COMING THIS SUNDAY

David's Delicatessen will be hosting its 15th annual Corned Beef-Off from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 16.

The event will feature corned beef from almost 20 different suppliers. A $25 fee will get guests in the door with unfettered access to corned beef, good times, and Irish American spirit.

The False Front will have beverages and Irish whiskey for sale and proceeds from the event will supporting the work of Neighbor by Neighbor.

David's Delicatessen is located at 30 N. Whittaker Street in New Buffalo. — STAFF REPORTS



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The 'Bite into a Legend' Burger turns 50

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Redamak's has seen a lot in the 50 years since Jim "Jimbo" and Angie Maroney took it over.

Throughout all those years, son Chuck Maroney said that people have congregated at the restaurant for many occasions: engagements and 16th, 18th and 21st birthdays.

"It's uncanny the amount of impact that we have in families... It's just memorable moments for families and for us," he said.

As was tradition, customers lined up by the restaurant's doors on opening day Thursday, March 6.

Mindy Greenfield and her dad, Tim Ames, marked the second year in a row of being first in line.

Greenfield, who said she's been coming to Redamak's for 15 years, said that she'll be ordering the traditional cheeseburger.

"It's a tradition for my dad and I to meet here," she said.

Meanwhile, Ames was opting for the lake perch.

"They bring it from Lake Michigan to the restaurant, it's fresh so I always come here for fish," he said.

Customers will find cheeseburgers, seafood and more standbys on this year's menu.

Chuck said that the menu doesn't have any major changes for 2025.

"We're just trying to keep it simple," he said.

The Working Person's Special, which is available for both dine-in and carry-out, is currently offered Thursday, Friday and Monday.

Carry-out operations are inside by the host counter, with customers being asked to provide a textable phone number. Orders can be placed over the phone, in person or online.

Chuck said he's thankful for his son and daughter for pushing for opening the online ordering last year, which has been a "welcome addition."

According to its website, Redamak's was started by George and Gladys Redamak in 1946.

For about three years, Jim had a running joke with Gladys when he'd see her at the restaurant: "Gladys, if you ever want to sell this joint, just give me a call."

That call came in the fall of 1974. On July 15, 1975, Jim and Gladys took over the business.

In 2013, Jim passed away, with Angie passing away in 2014. Nevertheless, their children and other extended family have stepped up to the plate to ensure the restaurant runs smoothly: son Chuck and his wife, Linda; their grandchildren Charlie and Katie; their other son, James and Katie's fiancée, Jordan

Annette and Dennis Freehling enjoy their first burgers of the season

Customers eat in the dining room area

Staff members prepare the season's first burgers

Customers enjoy the bar area

Cole, Nick and Jean Haskins enjoy their first burgers of the season

Customers line up for the first burger of the season

Redamak's crew celebrates its 50th year
(Photo taken by Katie Maroney)

Under the Maroneys' leadership, Redamak's has seen several changes. Namely, its outward appearance has changed: enclosing the outdoor patio in the spring of 1998, creating a three-season room by utilizing the screened-in porch area in the winter of 2002-2003 and a kitchen and bar area remodel in 2018.

The restaurant even saw its way through a worldwide pandemic, with Chuck saying that staffing levels have been climbing again to pre-Covid levels.

The staff has played a large role in Redamak's longevity, Chuck said.

"They're friends here and they're friends outside of the restaurant - they do activities together, hang out together…We're grateful for the staff over the years and we're very blessed for sure," he said.

Deb Robertson was celebrating 44 years at Redamak's on the afternoon of March 6.

Among her "regulars" that she served that day were Annette and Dennis Freehling, with whom she went to high school.

"The Maroney family is wonderful because they have family, too, so they work with all the servers – if your child has a basketball game or a function or something, they work with you," she said.

She said she was a server at Little Bohemia, which later became Hannah's, on South Whittaker Street when, one day, Jim strolled in with one of his bartenders after golfing at Briar Leaf.

After observing her, Jim called Robertson over and asked if she'd like to work at his restaurant.

"I said, 'That crazy place? No way' because even in 1981 when I started, it was busy," she said, adding that Jim said she could work there a couple days to "see what you think."

Chuck said that the catchphrase that Redamak's has adopted for this year is "trust the journey."

"It's been a journey and we're grateful for the opportunity, we've very grateful for our parents, my brother James and again, thankful for the staff we've had," he said.

Redamak's will be open from noon to 9 p.m. Thursday through Monday from now until October and is located at 616 E. Buffalo Street in New Buffalo. For the Burger Hotline, call 269-469-4522.

A 50th anniversary celebration is being planned for July 15, during which Chuck said that they'll have a special menu and will be raffling off gift cards and other novelty items.

OBITUARIES

Shirley Fay Lynch
1935-2025

Shirley Fay Lynch, 90, of Westmont, Illinois, formerly of Harbert, Michigan, died peacefully, Sunday, March 2, 2025.

Her life began February 7, 1935 in Houghton, Michigan, the only child born to Leonard and Hannah Segerstrom. She married James Lynch August 25, 1962 in Marquette, Michigan. After fifty-six years of marriage, he preceded her in death.

Shirley was born and raised in Houghton, Michigan. After graduating from Northern Michigan University, she moved to Ann Arbor where she met her future husband, Jim.

They settled in La Grange, Illinois where they raised their two sons and lived happily until retirement.

During their time in La Grange, they formed a tight knit group of friends known as the "Zuni's", who became their friends for life. Their retirement years were spent in Harbert, Michigan in their cherished home on the shore of Lake Michigan, welcoming all visitors.

Shirley was an avid member of the River Valley Garden Club, and the Harbert Community Church. She loved Wheel of Fortune, Jeopardy, playing solitaire, and an evening glass of wine.

Shirley will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by two sons, James Lynch, Jr. and Daniel (Karen) Lynch, both of Darien, Illinois, three grandchildren, Alex Lynch, Kristina Lynch, Teddy Lynch, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and life-long friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Family and friends will gathered on Sunday, March 9, 2025 from 1:30 p.m. EST until the time of service at 2:00 p.m. EST in Harbert Community Church, 6444 Harbert Road, Sawyer, Michigan.

Shirley was laid to rest with her husband in Riverside Cemetery.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Shirley be made to Harbert Community Church, Post Office Box 197, Harbert, Michigan 49115.z

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online www.wagnercares.com.

In Loving Memory of Stephen Waldon

With heartfelt sadness, we share the passing of Stephen Waldon just before the year's end—a visionary, compassionate leader, and beloved husband, father, son, brother, and friend. Steve's departure came far too soon, leaving behind a lasting legacy of innovation, kindness, and unwavering dedication to both his work and his family.

From an early age, Steve possessed an insatiable curiosity and a boundless passion for creativity. He dedicated his life to pushing the boundaries of possibility, making groundbreaking contributions in artificial intelligence, healthcare, and technology. Whether pioneering AI-driven medical diagnostics or revolutionizing healthcare systems, his work transformed industries and improved countless lives. Yet, for all his brilliance, Steve remained profoundly humble, ensuring that his innovations always served humanity first.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Steve's greatest devotion was to his family. He was a loving husband to Amy Waldon, a proud and caring father to Brandon, Harrison, and Ivy Waldon, and a cherished son to Angelina Waldon. He was also a devoted brother to Dan Waldon, brother-in-law to Corinne, uncle to Jasper and Jared, and a treasured family member to Mary Waldon and Steve Neuberger. His family was his greatest source of joy and inspiration. Steve found profound happiness in life's simplest moments—preparing meals, sharing laughter at family gatherings, offering wisdom and warmth to his children, and being a steady, unwavering presence for those he loved.

Steve's kindness and generosity reached beyond his family. He was a mentor, a friend, and a source of encouragement to those who knew him. Each day, he strolled the paths of Michiana, forging new friendships and engaging in heartfelt conversations with neighbors along the way. He deeply cherished this community and its beautiful surroundings. His legacy endures not only through the innovations he pioneered but also in the countless lives he touched with his compassion and generosity.

His dear friend Dave Gaw described him best:

"The one thing that defines Steve is his enduring sense of wonder—one that benefited not just him, but all of us around him. He was a great thinker, a brilliant mind, and always brought humor, insight, and humanity to his work. His curiosity was remarkable, but beyond that, he had a true, deep sense of wonder. This trait drove not only his intellectual pursuits but also his happiness and good nature. Steve believed in the uniqueness of people and their limitless potential. In our discussions about AI, he always saw how people would prevail, adapt, and ultimately benefit. To Steve, technology was not a replacement for humanity but an extension of it, always keeping people at the center."

As we say goodbye, we hold onto the memories of Steve's kindness, his love, and his unwavering belief in the power of technology to heal, connect, and transform. His light will continue to shine in the lives of those he inspired.

A celebration of Steve's life will be held this summer, where friends, family, and colleagues will gather to honor the wonderful person he was.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that you pay it forward in whatever way speaks to your heart. Put into the world what you hope to receive in return. Hold on tight to your loved ones and strive to create the world we all dream of.

Steve, you will be deeply missed, forever loved, and always remembered.

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A Day in the Life

HAPLESS FRIDAY NIGHT

BY LAWRENCE VON EBELER

It didn't seem right not to have plans on a Saturday night! While she was alive my wife and I were very social, often entertaining or going out. One Saturday night when we had no plans we experienced a novel situation. We decided to go to a movie but there were none we wanted to see but we went anyway and a lousy movie it was too. When it was finally over after an eternity we "snuck" out of our seats before anyone else started to leave. No dice though, some gadflies were leaving as well and poured all over us and we couldn't get away from them. But guess what? The delay let us see several other couples that did the same thing we did for lack of anything else going on. So our misguided efforts were for naught. We weren't the only ones from the "A" list with nothing else to do.

Another party disaster happened before we had remodeled the kitchen in our 1928 Fisher house. It still had the old fixtures in it. All was going well and the party was taking off and I went into the kitchen and turned the water on full blast and the ancient faucet and handle came off in my hand and water shot across the room. I threw a blanket over it to quell the gush a little. It took a half hour to get it shut off and in the meanwhile I was drenched. The kitchen was a disaster but few of the guests were ever the wiser since the food was already served. Thank God for small favors.

Another party disaster occurred at a fundraiser during the time when President Reagan was shot. I didn't expect much of a turnout because of the news. The rain never stopped either. We had look alike actors from both coasts for the event. Bobbie tripped and fell with a mounded tray of meat spilling it all over the floor. She was not injured and the food was salvageable and the guests kept rolling in! It was one of the largest turn outs of all! A dog fight started under the food table and my daughter, the artist, came downstairs with a bottle of India ink and tripped and threw it all over a guest's new mink coat. Scott, our son, was sick and getting sicker with each passing hour. One of Reagan's speech writers came in spite of his boss being shot. The evening finally ended as a grand success and we raised a ton of money for Learning Through Art a charity our friend started for handicapped children. We then rushed up stairs to see how Scott was and quickly determined that he should be hospitalized. It was a long night after spending another two or three at the hospital. The doctor's diagnosis was that he had an extra bad bout of flu but would be okay. Kim, our daughter we had sent a plane ticket for in New York, attended the event. She stayed with Scott and we went home after something like 36 hours on our feet. It's not easy being celebrities.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE New Buffalo Times — SINCE 1942 —

A Writer's Life...

DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION ANIMATION

BY JACK OLESKER

Grounded in the present, a future to come.

I keep a low profile for a month. I steer clear of Jean's condo, stay off Lori's radar and I stop visiting DIC's studio. It's easy to do all this because I don't have any new script assignments, having completed my scripts for The Littles and The Get Along Gang. The downside is I feel like I'm in limbo. Again, something is in the air.

A part of me is thinking I just may have a career in children's entertainment. For a writer who has written grisly murder mysteries, terrifying horror novels and a sprawling historical saga, it's strange to think I can end up writing for children.

It's different writing for children. I think differently, knowing my work will be seen by kids, that I might make them smile and just maybe have an impact on their lives.

It will be 40 years before I finally come to realize how right I was.

Kim and I will be on stools at The Stray Dog's horseshoe-shaped bar in the resort community of New Buffalo, Michigan, where we live. Joey, the bartender, sometimes outs me to visitors from Chicago, telling them I created the original development work for Mighty Morphin Power Rangers, wrote for Care Bears and created The New Adventures of He-Man.

One night, the bar packed, Joey does this with three young couples on the other side of the bar and soon I hear chanting of "POW-ER RAN-GERS! POW-ER RAN-GERS! POW-ER RAN-GERS!" Fireball shots arrive. I lift my shotglass and shoot the cinnamon-laced Fireball down in unison with my fans across the bar from us.

But then I see them getting off their stools and heading for me. The Chicago visitors/fans are in their 30's, out for a fun night. As they gather, I hand out business cards. Handshakes all around and then another round of Fireballs in the raucous bar.

Soon I'm arm-wrestling the young guys, elbows on barstools, insisting we use our left hands, giving this older writer a small advantage since I'm lefthanded.

Finally, it's time for Kim and me to leave. I thank everyone. As we move through the crowd toward the exit, a young woman, a part of the group we've spent the night with, approaches and asks, "Can I speak with you for a second, Mr. Olesker."

I smile and answer, "Sure, but you have to call me 'Jack'."

She draws closer, voice lowering. She talks about a difficult childhood, her father verbally abusive to her mother. Then she says "I waited all week for Care Bears. It was my oasis." She pauses for a moment. Then, her voice choking with emotion, she says, "I want to thank you for saving my childhood..."

I'm a tough guy, raised on Chicago's mean streets, all my fingers broken from fights in my youth. I spent my Air Force hitch in helicopters as a search-and-rescue medic. And then I went to L.A., which made everything else seem like a cakewalk.

But this young woman had touched my heart in a powerful way. I never knew, until that moment, the impact some of my writing for children's television had on others. I never knew this was the real reason children's television writers write. Voice trembling, she asks if she can hug me. Unable to find words, I open my arms. We embrace. Then we separate, her eyes and mine welling with tears.

One throws a pebble into a pond and hopes its ripples reach fertile shores. My pebble did...

Jack Olesker's career in the entertainment industry spans over four decades. He has served as a story editor in L.A. as well as president of a motion picture and television company in Chennai, India. His writing ranges from Mighty Morphin Power Rangers, Care Bears and Hello Kitty's Furry Tale Theater to documentaries and horror novels and murder mysteries for adults.

HOROSCOPE

MARCH 13-19, 2025

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

This is a great time to make changes to the way you treat yourself and those you care about. Take the initiative to do the work you need to do and the universe will expedite the rewards. Actively get involved with the things you care about and you will see results quickly.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

Get back to the things that warm your heart and make you feel inspired this week. This is the time to cut negative people and influences from your environment. Protect your energy by surrounding yourself with people and things that uplift and excite you, even if it means being alone.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

This is the time to pull back and go into hermit mode. Nurture yourself and give your inner world a break by meditating and walking. Keep your thoughts and experiences private which will protect you from people's perceptions. Privacy will keep your focus on what's important and powerful.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

Take the lead in making important connections and conversations happen this week. This is the time to evaluate and strategize and the more information you have the better. Rather than live up to standards, create standards of your own that originate from studying or shadowing someone who is successful.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

The energy coming your way this week has a boomerang quality to it. What you put out will ultimately come back and things you thought were in the long past will be coming back around. So, there is a lasting or continuousness feeling to situations. Trust your instincts when making cuts this time.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

This week the energy is all about reclaiming and renewing your unique sense of self and your ability to make use of all things at your disposal. When working with others realign the relationship towards a more curious and exploratory purpose. Don't isolate each other.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

There is a kind of elusive intangible vibe coming your way this week. You will feel like you are doing things that will be of great importance to others but they will either under react or totally miss the point. Don't worry your actions will have a delayed effect; come mid-April they'll see.

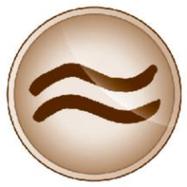
SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

When dealing with friends and partners it is important to drop all innuendos. Be as upfront as possible with them. If you are happy, show gratitude. But if things are off or not up to par, it is important to correct issues in real time. Don't wait or use fancy language. Be kind but to the point.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

It is important to protect your inner child and nurture the things that make you feel connected and inspired. There could be a lot of gossip about past relationships that will create instability and doubt. Do not let that vibe hang around. Know that the past is what you moved away from.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



The depth of commitments and responsibilities that come from caring for others will be realized this week. There are things and people you will want to help and get involved with but you may not realize how much dedication and hard work it will require. Enter slowly and ask questions.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

Get out the broom and dust off that porch because company is coming. Prepare yourself for some unexpected arrivals and they may be from the old flame and long-lost friend department. They'll try to push your buttons but now you have better boundaries and a greater sense of self-worth.

The only real progress lies in learning to be wrong all alone.
— Albert Camus

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7		2						
						6	7	2
4			6		2	8	9	
2	5							
		4		9				
6	7		2		1	4	8	5

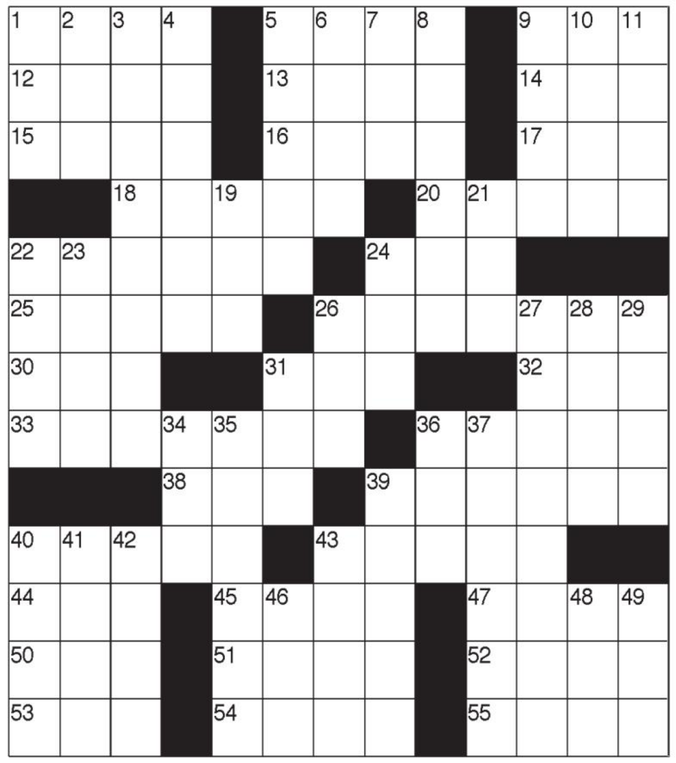
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Domino
5 Below (naut.)
9 Swab
12 Century plant fiber
13 Consort of Siva
14 Sayings (suf.)
15 Thick slice
16 Estrade
17 Malay gibbon
18 Marked with lines
20 Tree
22 Fuel ship
24 Ancient (abbr.)
25 City on the Loire
26 Papal church
30 Irish fortified place
31 Antiaircraft artillery (abbr.)
32 Where (Lat.)
33 Small sturgeon
36 Celebrated
38 Dawn: goddess
39 Capable of movement
40 Eye (pref.)
43 Father of Rachel
44 Sheep's cry
45 Slide
47 Carplike fish
50 Compass direction
51 Your (Ger.)
52 Italic (abbr.)
53 Harass
54 Baseball team
55 Air (pref.)

DOWN

1 Miles per second (abbr.)
2 Trouble
3 Mole
4 Jap. drama
5 Viper
6 Guide
7 Egg (pref.)
8 Aurochs
9 Polynesian breech-cloth
10 Son of Judah
11 Beseech
19 Article (Fr.)
21 Before common era (abbr.)
22 Tablespoon (abbr.)
23 Settled
24 Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
26 Buddhist column
27 Mull
28 Brother of Seth
29 Pheasant brood
31 Rom. bronze
34 Electric reluctance unit
35 Unfasten
36 Foist
37 Abbey (Sp.)
39 Mother (Ital.)
40 Foreboding
41 Woman's work basket
42 Rhinoceros beetle
43 Legal claim
46 Knond language
48 Vehicle
49 Teacher of Samuel



Motorcyclist killed in collision with SUV

BY STAN MADDUX

A man on a motorcycle was killed in a collision with a passenger vehicle Wednesday in La Porte County.

The victim was identified as Alec Tucker, 30, of Kingsford Heights.

La Porte County Police said Tucker was traveling U.S. 35 when an oncoming 2023 Ford Explorer turned left into the path of his 1993 Yamaha at 400 South in Kingsbury.

Tucker was transported by ambulance to a local hospital where he died from injuries sustained in the crash, police said.

Police said the other driver, Amy Kollar of La Porte, was not injured.

So far, investigators have not obtained the results of a standard toxicology test given to Kollar to determine if alcohol or drugs may have been a factor in her not yielding to the motorcyclist.

Police did not release any further information.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS IS ACCEPTING STUDENTS FOR THE BISON BEGINNERS PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM AND KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR.

It is helpful to know how many students we will have as we begin planning for the 2025-2026 school year. If you believe your child will qualify for either the Bison Beginners Pre-Kindergarten program or for Kindergarten, please contact the office at 269-469-6060 so we can make sure your student is on our enrollment list. You can also email the elementary school's administrative assistant Jenna Wendel at jwendel@nbas.org. Please contact the office by Monday, April 7, 2025. You will need to include the following information: child's name, birth date, parent/guardian name, address, phone number and email address.

BISON BEGINNERS
Parents/guardians that have children who will be four years old by September 1, 2025 are able to register their child for the Bison Beginners Pre-kindergarten program. The program offers both half-day (a.m. only) or full-day sessions. Enrollment is limited to 25 students.

KINDERGARTEN
Parents/guardians with students that will be five years old by September 1, 2025 are able to register their child for the full-day kindergarten program.

SCHOOL OF CHOICE AND TUITION
If you do not reside in the New Buffalo Area Schools district but do live in Michigan, you are welcome to apply for the School of Choice program. Tuition is also an available enrollment option for students living out-of-state. Information and applications for both programs are on our district's website: https://www.nbas.org/o/nbas/page/school-of-choice-and-tuition-students.

HEARING/VISION/DENTAL SCREENING
Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students planning to attend New Buffalo Elementary for the 2025-2026 school year will be able to have their hearing, vision and dental screening performed by the Berrien County Health Department on Tuesday, April 29, 2025 from 1:00-3:00 pm at New Buffalo Elementary. Appointments are required - please call or email the school office to schedule. This screening is required by the state of Michigan for kindergarten and highly encouraged by our district for pre-kindergarten. Please bring your student's birth certificate (original or a copy), student's immunization record and parent/guardian picture ID.

If you will not be attending the health screening on April 29, please contact the Berrien County Health Department at 269-926-7121, extension 5293 to schedule an appointment or visit their website for more information: www.berriencounty.org/634/hearing-vision-screening.

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PET OF THE WEEK

ASH

This is Ash. She is chatty, nosey, interactive, and playful. She loves being petted, and will solicit affection whenever and wherever, she loves a good lap nap. Ash is around six years old, spayed, and her vaccinations are up-to-date. She has lived with dogs before, and really enjoyed being around them, but was most comfortable if they were smaller. Ash does not prefer to live with children, but does her best to make it known that she likes to be paid attention to.

AVAILABLE AT THE MICHIANA HUMANE SOCIETY

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
New Buffalo Times
— SINCE 1942 —

9	6	5	3	2	8	7	4	1
3	8	1	7	4	9	5	2	6
7	4	2	5	1	6	9	3	8
5	9	3	1	8	4	6	7	2
8	2	6	9	7	3	1	5	4
4	1	7	6	5	2	8	9	3
2	5	8	4	6	7	3	1	9
1	3	4	8	9	5	2	6	7
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P	I	T	A	■	D	E	V	I	■	A	N	A		
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Henry Donnelly presents on the three-toed sloth

mamífero que vive en la selva tropical de
America del Norte, América central y
América del sur. Es mediano de color cafe,
blanco y gris. Tiene piel peludo, garras y 4
patas. Come plantas y frutas. Es presa de
jaguars, serpientes y águilas. Trepa. No
nada.
https://a-z-animals.com, A-Z Animals, New Buffalo
Elementary School, Feb 6, 2025
https://animalia.bio, Animalia, New Buffalo
Elementary School, Feb 6, 2025
https://inaturalist.org, iNaturalist, New Buffalo
Elementary school, Feb 6, 2025

Students learn the pronounciation of animal names from Karen Muckey-Martinez

El mosqu
El mosquero real es un ave que vive en la
selva tropical de America del Sur.
Es mediano de color café.
Tiene pico, cola, alas, patas y garras.
Come insectos. Es presa de águilas y
pájaros grandes.
Vuela. No nada.
macho

Keilyn Ixtepan-Pucheta teaches students about the Colombian red howler

tropical de América central y
América del sur. Es mediano y es
de color café y negra. Tiene cola
piel peluda y 4 patas. Come frutas y
es presa de jaguares, serpientes y
pájaros. Salta. No nada.
Red howler monkey Bolivia || ho...
Wildlife animals TV
FRUTAS!
Que come
A-Z Animals, New Buffalo Elementary School, February 6, 2025
Animalia, New Buffalo Elementary School, February 6, 2025
BOISE
BOISE

Elementary students soak up new language, culture in Spanish class

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

According to New Buffalo Elementary School Spanish Teacher Karen Muckey-Martinez, the earlier you learn a new language, the better.

"If you look at the research of language learning, the very best thing is to start as young as possible," she said.

At New Buffalo, that means before students have entered kindergarten.

Twice a week for 15 minutes a day, students in prekindergarten attend Spanish class, which is one of the school's "specials." In middle school, they learn from Spanish teacher Julie Raducha before moving onto Matt Bayley's high school class.

"He (Bayley) prepares kids for the AP Spanish exam, so they can receive college credits, and we also prepare kids for the Seal of Biliteracy," Muckey-Martinez said.

All the years of learning culminate in a trip to Spain. Muckey-Martinez, who said she and her husband used to own a couple language academies in Spain, said high school students visit Spain and then welcome Spanish students to New Buffalo.

Over the last few years, Muckey-Martinez said that it's been observed that students who've begun Spanish at the elementary school level have picked up on it "much quicker" than those who haven't been exposed early.

"What I see with these kids is they pick it up really quick and then their pronunciation is great - a lot of times, if students learn in high school, your mouth has already formed, you already have all this knowledge of your own language and it's really difficult to learn that second language, where these kids you can tell their brains are still adaptable for a second language," she said.

The elementary Spanish program has been going on for longer than Muckey-Martinez has been teaching there, which has been five years.

"The school board president mentioned to me once that the board had gone to a conference and there was someone there advocating for an early language program and because of that talk, New Buffalo decided to start an early language program," she said.

The goal of the elementary program, Muckey-Martinez said, is to give students lots of vocabulary. She compares learning Spanish to creating a giant snowball: start with a few words before adding more. In prekindergarten, which includes using lots of songs and puppets, students learn words for farm animals. In kindergarten, they progress to wild animals before moving onto first grade, where they add sea and forest animals into the mix. By fourth grade, students will have learned the names of animal body parts and habitats and actions animals can or can't do. On Friday, March 7, students were presenting slides that were written in Spanish on research they'd conducted on animals from tropical rain forests in Central and South America.

Muckey-Martinez said students do projects, which are displayed in the hallways, that are a culmination of the vocabulary and grammar that they've learned by the end of each unit.

Third graders created "crazy animals" that had the head of a giraffe and body of a hippopotamus. Fifth graders looked at words related to an island and engaged in a comparative, such as which river is bigger than which lake, that led to a country study about Puerto Rico.

"I'm always thinking: How can I build on what I've already done?" Muckey-Martinez said.

The cultural aspect is also a component of the class, as students focus on countries and their cultures. Muckey-Martinez said she tries to pick countries with which some of the students have a connection. This year, since two students have a father from Columbia, their father came in and talked about it after they'd completed their study on the country. Since some students had visited Argentina and had a mother from there, they studied Argentina. Next year, Muckey-Martinez plans to focus on Spain, as her son and daughter were born there.

Fourth grader Henry Donnelly was so inspired by their study of Mexico, he convinced his family to take a trip there.

Donnelly, who enjoyed viewing the pyramids as well as the good hot chocolate, said he even picked up some words that he'd learned in class while there.

"If you visit somewhere, it's fun to use what you know," he said.

Kylee Bahena and Everett Williams, also in the fourth grade, agreed that knowing Spanish is useful.

Williams, whose father visits Puerto Rico to recruit baseball players, said it's now more useful than ever.

"People who speak Spanish are coming into the U.S., so it'd be good to learn Spanish," he said.

Bahena, whose father lived in Mexico for a while, said learning a new language has opened a new world to her.

"We learn new stuff that we didn't know about and sometimes, people know about something, and they say it (in a presentation)," she said.

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